



Proclamation

- In Memoriam -

Barney Fushimi Hajiro

WHEREAS, Barney Fushimi Hajiro was born on September 16, 1916 in Puunene, Maui to parents who immigrated from Hiroshima during World War I. They provided Barney with values and principles such as humility, compassion and determination which are shared by many Issei and Nisei families in our island state; and

WHEREAS, in spite of the threat of prejudice by others in the U.S. Army and the internment of Japanese-Americans, Barney Fushimi Hajiro was one the first to volunteer to serve in March, 1943. He proved his loyalty to America, and as an Army private and member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team he demonstrated great courage on October 1944 by running 100 yards through a stream of bullets; walking through a booby-trapped area, and leading the charge of his Unit up "Suicide Hill" to take out the enemy's machine gun nest; and

WHEREAS, Barney Fushimi Hajiro fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy, then moved with his Unit to eastern France, and was cited for the bravery his demonstrated on October 19th and 22nd 1944 in battles under extremely dangerous conditions and on challenging mountainous terrain; and

WHEREAS, Barney Fushimi Hajiro did not initially receive a Medal of Honor for his heroism but in the year 2000, after 56 years and a belated Pentagon review, President Bill Clinton presented the Medal of Honor to Mr. Hajiro, Senator Daniel Inouye and 20 other Asian-American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, Barney Fushimi Hajiro was also awarded other honors such as a Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation and Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery; and

WHEREAS, Barney Fushimi Hajiro epitomized the dedication, courage and perseverance exhibited during World War II by all Americans of Japanese ancestry exhibited during World War II and their struggle for recognition during a time of extreme discrimination and uncertainty, and was well-regarded by his community, the people of Hawai'i and our nation;

BE IT RESOLVED, that I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor of the State of Hawai'i, and BRIAN SCHATZ, Lt. Governor of the State of Hawai'i, as a mark of respect for the memory and heroism of Barney Fushimi Hajiro, hereby order, by the authority vested in us by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii, that the Hawaii State Flag shall be flown at half-staff at all State offices and agencies as well as the Hawaii National Guard from sunrise on February 12, 2001 through sunset on February 14, 2011.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this tenth day of February 2011.

Neil Abercrombie

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

Governor, State of Hawai'i

Brian Schatz

BRIAN SCHATZ

Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i